CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of coating the surface of substrates, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising the steps of bringing a solution of a polymer having derivatized hydroxyl and/or carboxyl groups and/or CN, halogen, and/or amino substituents ~~is brought~~ into contact with the surface of the substrate ~~and~~ whereby said derivatized hydroxyl and/or carboxyl groups or CN, halogen and/or amino substituents are solvolyzed so that the polymer is converted to a form showing reduced solubility.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein solvolysis is carried out only partially.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymer has unsaturated groups in at least one of a side chains and~~/or the~~ a backbone chain.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ ~~3~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the polymer exhibits active groups and/or forms the same during solvolysis, which groups serve to immobilize the polymer.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ ~~3~~, ~~characterized in that after~~ further comprising the steps of coating the surface of the substrate ~~has been coated~~ with the polymer and immobilizing the polymer, ~~immobilization is effected~~ by means of a crosslinking reaction following the solvolysis.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the crosslinking reaction is a free-radical reaction or an addition or condensation reaction.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~4 to 6~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of washing the surface of the substrate ~~is washed~~ following immobilization of the polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is a particulate substrate and that the polymer has a molar mass of from 1,000 to 50,000 g/mol.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is a flat substrate and that the polymer has a molar mass of from 1,000 to 500,000 g/mol.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the particulate substrate is selected from the group comprising pigments, fillers, fibers, nano particles, and particles of colloidal or micellar systems.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising the step of coating the surface of the substrate ~~is coated~~ with a nano layer of a polymer.

12. (Currently Amended) A substrate having a polymer-coated surface, produced by a method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims ~~1 to 11~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the coating is a nano layer.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is a metallic substrate.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is made of steel, galvanized steel, aluminum, or an aluminum alloy.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method as ~~defined~~ claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 12 ~~to 15~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the substrate is a particulate substrate, selected from the group comprising pigments, fillers, fibers or lamellar particles, nano particles, and particles of colloidal or micellar systems.